

Ideas to utilize upcoming American Rescue Plan dollars
Washoe County will be collecting feedback until November 30, 2021

Through the passage of the American Rescue Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319), state and local aid will be distributed to States, local governments, and tribal governments in the same manner as Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from the CARES Act.

Funds are required to be spent within the following categories:

- Response to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts
- Response to workers performing essential work during the public health emergency
- The provision of government services due to revenue reduction
- Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure

Members of community stakeholder groups and the public are encouraged to share their ideas using the form provided below.

Required

1.Name

Age Friendly Livable Reno Action Group, Donna Clontz AARP NV Lead Volunteer

2.Email donnanorm1@yahoo.com

3.Zip Code

89509, 89519, 89523, 89431, and 89436

4.Idea to utilize ARPA funds within the categories listed above

Increasing public transportation options responds to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, responds to workers performing essential work during the public health emergency, and provides government services cut or not offered due to revenue reduction.

Idea: Create some new RTC FlexRIDE routes in south Reno and south Washoe County

The Age Friendly Livable Reno Action Group (made up of community members/service provider representatives, as well as members of Washoe County Senior Advisory Board, Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee) recommend creation and funding of a 2-year pilot project to improve transportation for elders in south Washoe County/Reno. The Age Friendly Livable Reno Action Plan has three priorities: to increase affordable housing, improve access to community and healthcare services and improve transportation options.

The south part of Washoe County, south of the McCarran ring road has very few bus routes even though that area's population had grown immensely over the past decade. During the pandemic, RTC expanded the operation of its FlexRIDE vans to North Valleys, Northwest Reno and Sparks/Spanish Springs, but has not done so in the south.

We propose creating a pilot project to grant ARPA funds to RTC to create several new FlexRIDE routes south of the McCarran ring road to serve south Reno and Washoe Valley. This would connect isolated seniors and others to essential activities such as grocery shopping, medical appointments, schools/training/volunteering, jobs and more.

For Reno:

The elder community makes up about 30% of Reno's population and has been historically underserved. Many Reno elders live alone on low- and fixed-incomes and face imminent homelessness as rents rise dramatically. They struggle to pay for their rent, food, healthcare costs, medicine, transportation and other vital costs. Elders who live south of the McCarran ring have had inadequate bus access for decades. With ARPA funding of new FlexRIDE routes, these elders would be able to access jobs, businesses, medical care, connections to friends and family and other necessary services. Improved transportation will combat loneliness and depression among elders--a public health crisis in our community made more evident by the pandemic.

Output: Increased RTC elder riders south of McCarran ring.

Output: Increased number of elders using RTC to connect to jobs, shopping, healthcare

Outcome: Elders living in south Washoe County/Reno are less isolated

Outcome: Elders living in south Washoe County/Reno have improved quality of life

<https://www.artandhealing.org/older-adults-loneliness-fact-sheet/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAtJeNBhCVARIsANJUJ2Hms7F6qgdM9aPgxpblxOxFkyEJu0c0J3w0xeF4UtLlp3YGpym4C laAoB5EALw wcb>